

Personal Mention

Brother Albert W. Evans, Eaton, Ind., writes that church work is going along nicely, with an excellent school also doing good work.

Brother and Sister Knepper have our sympathy as also that of the whole church in this time of their sad bereavement. They have lost a dear, bright girl. May God comfort and sustain them.

Sister Eva Wine, Milledgeville, Ill., sends ten cents for extra copies of a certain number of the EVANGELIST, which she says contains an article worth the price of a year's subscription.

Brother Miller's large correspondence with and the many inquiries from the young people of the church indicate a more than usual interest in the College. The outlook is quite encouraging.

Brother J. C. Cassel, secretary and treasurer of the Publication Board, arrived at Ashland Tuesday, August 9th. After making up his report from the records he goes to Chicago, and thence to the Conference.

Brother J. C. Ewing has been at Ashland for several weeks in the interest of the Ohio Normal School of music. The term having closed, he has gone to meet his family, who are on their way to Ohio from Georgia. They will locate in this state. We are pleased to learn that Brother Ewing will again be within the bounds of the brotherhood.

The following is taken from the Johnstown Theocrat: "Dr. J. C. Mackey, pastor of the Brethren church at Elk Lick, spent last Sabbath in Johnstown. He preached both morning and evening in the Brethren church on Somerset street, this city, in the absence of the pastor, Rev. Haskins, who was holding a grove meeting at McAllister, Pa. Dr. Mackey spent part of Monday with his former parishoners and friends at Conemaugh, and in the evening he preached in the Union Chapel in Upper Yoder township. Brother Mackey has many friends in the Conemaugh Valley who are always glad to see him."

Pacific Notes

My pen has been idle for a considerable time, at least in so far as writing anything for the columns of our worthy paper is concerned. But hands and tongue have not been idle, for the Master's vineyard has furnished plenty of work to me in sunny California.

Speaking of "sunny California" reminds me that it has been even more sunny than usual, for we are passing thro one of the driest years ever known here. In this part of the San Joaquin valley we have an average rainfall of about thirteen inches, and this precipitation occurs between October and May. This is ample moisture for the maturing of grain and fruit crops if it is well distributed as to time. During the past winter, or rainy season, instead of having thirteen inches, we had less than six and the drought thus following has wrought havoc with the grain crop. This means much more than the average eastern man will understand, for small grain is practically the only crop grown in the state except in irrigated localities, which are far too few. A failure of the grain crop brings great scarcity of feed for live stock, no income, and general hard times. This expresses the condition of by far the greater portion of California this year and there can be no relief for a whole year, or until another crop is harvested. Some idea of the nature of things may be

had when I tell you that the state has not more than one-twentieth of an average crop. Thus we have had a sunny California in earnest this year.

If financial California is in the dumps, I am more than glad to be able to report that spiritual California has been and is yet distinctly on the alert. The work looks encouraging all along the line, for we see God's hand at the helm, guiding the old ship Zion grandly toward the farther shore of life's great sea. From April 9 to 11 we had one of the most blessed conferences it has ever been my privilege to attend. The meeting was held at Lathrop and was well attended. There was not the faintest sign of a jar during the entire meeting, and it seemed that there was a perfect unanimity of feeling upon every question discussed. Our Brother J. W. Beer pronounced it the most harmonious meeting of the kind he has ever attended. The brethren and sisters of Lathrop were keenly alive to the scriptural injunction teaching hospitality, and everybody was happy. Only one thing marred our complete happiness,—our dear Brother and Elder, John P. Wolfe lay dying slowly, and hearts grew heavy and eyes moist as we thought of the day that would come, all too soon,—the day of parting, when he would leave us for the world beyond. The business of the conference was largely questions of church extension—mission work, additional help in our ministry, and camp meeting.

The additional help in our active ministry has come, from a source little expected at the time we were discussing the questions. Brother Albert P. Reed, formerly from Highland County, Ohio, and an active minister among our German Baptist Brethren, has, with his two daughters, placed his church letters with us. He comes to us with a record which has not a single blot. His address is Elgin, Merced County, Cal., and he preaches regularly for the Vernalis Brethren who speak of him and his work in glowing terms. May the Lord grant richest blessings upon his labors in the "whitening harvest."

The field is widening. For a good while invitations had been coming to me to hold services at Atwater, a goodly community about 55 miles from home, near Merced, Cal. At first I thought it would be utterly impossible, seeing that my time was all taken, but later I arranged to preach there two Saturday evenings each month. On the occasion of my third visit, June 4th, I began a protracted effort which continued eighteen days, during the hot and busy season. The meetings were well attended and the people gave heed to the words which were spoken, so that at the close of the effort fifteen precious souls were ingrafted into the glorious Christ by baptism. A few weeks later they were organized into a Brethren church, and Brother E. B. Osborn was ordained deacon, as was also his wife, sister Alice. The work is not finished there and you may expect encouraging reports later. Since that meeting

closed, two have been baptized in the city of Stockton, thus making 42 baptisms and 4 additions by relation since Sep. 1, '97. These last two were led to the light by our devoted Sister Reynor who is a constant worker in the Master's cause.

The annual camp meeting will be held this year on the same grounds as last and will begin Aug. 25th to continue 10 days. These meetings have been a source of strength heretofore, and we all look forward with confidence believing this one will be no exception. While you, my brethren, will be assembled in National Conference we shall be engaged in this meeting, proclaiming a Savior's love and power. Let us pray for one another, that each in his field of labor may be blessed, and many do valiant work for the extension of God's kingdom.

We California brethren are much pleased with the announcement of the opening of Ashland University. We are too far away to send pupils to the institution, but we paid our share of its indebtedness and we have prayed that it might become a great power for good in the church we love. Brother Miller is well known and much loved by our people here. We all have fullest confidence in his Christian manhood and in his ability. God go with him in his work, is our prayer.

A telegram this evening brought the news that sister Elizabeth Bonnett of the Turlock church died suddenly today. She was the pioneer member of the church there and has lived to see the work become thoroughly established, and her devoted and consistent life has done much toward giving prestige to the work. Obituary later.

I remain your brother in the Lord,
MARTIN SHIVELY.

Lathrop, Cal.

Gretna, Ohio

We have been silent for quite a while, but we are still moving along in the Christian warfare. Brother White, our pastor, still meets with us every two weeks. We have not held our fall communion yet, but expect to in the near future. Sometimes we meet with discouragements, as did Elijah of old, and feel almost like giving up trying to serve our Master, but when we search the Holy Word and find in it so much encouragement, we renew our zeal and energy and receive more strength and more faith to press onward, manfully fighting the enemy of sin, and our faith and works shall overcome all evil, and we shall come out victorious in the end. Tho it may cause sorrows and heartaches, yet when we think of how our blessed Savior suffered pain unspeakable for our sakes, we ought to bear up under all discouragements and trials that we meet along the rugged pathway of life and at last reap the bountiful reward that awaits the children of God. "For the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

MRS. HATTIE MILLER.